

In the Claims:

1-42 (Cancelled).

43. (Original) A method of installing a vehicle cockpit assembly within a passenger compartment of a vehicle, wherein the passenger compartment is separated from an engine compartment by a firewall, wherein the passenger compartment comprises a floor, the method comprising:

providing a dash insulator that is configured to be attached to the vehicle firewall;

attaching an instrument panel to the dash insulator;

ascertaining acoustic properties of the vehicle to identify portions of the dash insulator requiring sound reflection and/or absorption; and

applying sound reflection and/or absorption material to identified portions of the dash insulator.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 43, wherein applying sound reflection and/or absorption material to identified portions of the dash insulator comprises spraying polyurethane to one or more portions of the dash insulator.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 44, wherein spraying polyurethane comprises spraying polyurethane with different thicknesses to one or more portions of the dash insulator.

46. (Original) The method of Claim 43, wherein ascertaining acoustic properties of the vehicle comprises identifying areas of the dash insulator at which sound within a predetermined frequency range is directed at an intensity level that exceeds a threshold intensity level.

47. (Original) The method of Claim 46, wherein ascertaining acoustic properties of the vehicle comprises generating a sound intensity map of the vehicle.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 43, wherein attaching an instrument panel to the dash insulator comprises movably attaching the instrument panel to the substrate first edge portion.

49. (Original) The method of Claim 43, further comprising attaching a floor covering to the dash insulator.

50. (Original) The method of Claim 49, wherein attaching a floor covering to the dash insulator comprises movably attaching the floor covering to the substrate second edge portion.

51. (Original) A method of installing a vehicle cockpit assembly within a passenger compartment of a vehicle, wherein the passenger compartment is separated from an engine compartment by a firewall, and wherein the passenger compartment comprises a floor, the method comprising:

providing a dash insulator that is configured to be attached to the vehicle firewall, and that includes an upper substrate having opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edge portions, a lower substrate having opposite third and fourth surfaces and opposite third and fourth edge portions, wherein the upper and lower substrates are configured to be joined together along the respective second and third edge portions;
attaching an instrument panel to the upper substrate first edge portion;
attaching a floor covering to the lower substrate fourth edge portion;
attaching the first and second substrates to the firewall; and
joining the upper and lower substrates together along the second and third edge portions thereof.

52. (Original) The method of Claim 51, wherein the following steps are performed prior to the attaching step:

ascertaining acoustic properties of the vehicle to identify portions of the dash insulator requiring sound reflection and/or absorption; and

applying sound reflection and/or absorption material to identified portions of the dash insulator.

53. (Original) The method of Claim 52, wherein the step of applying sound reflection and/or absorption material to identified portions of the dash insulator comprises spraying polyurethane to one or more portions of the upper and/or lower substrates.

54. (Original) The method of Claim 53, wherein spraying polyurethane comprises spraying polyurethane with different thicknesses to one or more portions of the upper and/or lower substrates.

55. (Original) The method of Claim 52, wherein ascertaining acoustic properties of the vehicle comprises identifying areas of the dash insulator at which sound within a predetermined frequency range is directed at an intensity level that exceeds a threshold intensity level.

56. (Original) The method of Claim 55, wherein ascertaining acoustic properties of the vehicle comprises generating a sound intensity map of the vehicle.

57. (Original) The method of Claim 51, wherein attaching an instrument panel to the upper substrate first edge portion comprises movably attaching the instrument panel to the upper substrate first edge portion.

58. (Original) The method of Claim 51, wherein attaching a floor covering to the lower substrate fourth edge portion comprises movably attaching the floor covering to the lower substrate fourth edge portion.

59. (New) A method of installing a vehicle cockpit assembly within a passenger compartment of a vehicle, wherein the passenger compartment is separated from an engine compartment by a firewall, wherein the passenger compartment comprises a floor, the method comprising:

providing a dash insulator that is configured to be attached in face-to-face contacting relationship to the vehicle firewall, wherein the dash insulator comprises a

substrate of thermoformable material having opposite first and second surfaces and opposite first and second edge portions; and

adhesively attaching an instrument panel to the substrate first edge portion such that the instrument panel and dash insulator can move relative to each other to facilitate installation of the cockpit assembly within the vehicle passenger compartment during vehicle assembly.

60. (New) The method of Claim 59, further comprising applying sound reflection and/or absorption material to identified portions of the dash insulator.

61. (New) The method of Claim 60, wherein applying sound reflection and/or absorption material to identified portions of the dash insulator comprises spraying polyurethane to one or more portions of the dash insulator.

62. (New) The method of Claim 61, wherein spraying polyurethane comprises spraying polyurethane with different thicknesses to one or more portions of the dash insulator.

63. (New) The method of Claim 59, further comprising attaching a floor covering to the dash insulator.

64. (New) The method of Claim 63, wherein attaching a floor covering to the dash insulator comprises movably attaching the floor covering to the substrate second edge portion.